

SUNDAY READINGS & PRAYERS

Entrance Antiphon: Cf. Ps 30: 3-4

Be my protector, O God,
a mighty stronghold to save me.
For you are my rock, my stronghold!
Lead me, guide me, for the sake of your name.

Collect

O God, who teach us that you abide
in hearts that are just and true,
grant that we may be so fashioned
by your grace as to become a
dwelling pleasing to you.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns
with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

First reading: Ecclesiasticus 15:16-21

If you wish, you can keep the commandments,
to behave faithfully is within your power.
He has set fire and water before you;
put out your hand to whichever you prefer.
Man has life and death before him;
whichever a man likes better will be given him.
For vast is the wisdom of the Lord;
he is almighty and all-seeing.
His eyes are on those who fear him,
he notes every action of man.
He never commanded anyone to be godless,
he has given no one permission to sin.

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 118(119)

R/. They are happy who follow God's law!

1. They are happy whose life is blameless,
who follow God's law!

They are happy who do his will,
seeking him with all their hearts. *R/.*

2. You have laid down your precepts
to be obeyed with care.

May my footsteps be firm
to obey your statutes. *R/.*

3. Bless your servant and I shall live
and obey your word.

Open my eyes that I may see
the wonders of your law. *R/.*

4. Teach me the demands of your statutes
and I will keep them to the end.

Train me to observe your law,
to keep it with my heart. *R/.*

Second reading: 1 Corinthians 2:6-10

We have a wisdom to offer those who have reached maturity:
not a philosophy of our age, it is true, still less of the masters
of our age, which are coming to their end. The hidden wisdom
of God which we teach in our mysteries is the wisdom that God
predestined to be for our glory before the ages began. It is a
wisdom that none of the masters of this age have ever known,
or they would not have crucified the Lord of Glory; we teach
what scripture calls: *the things that no eye has seen and no
ear has heard, things beyond the mind of man, all that God
has prepared for those who love him.*

These are the very things that God has revealed to us through
the Spirit, for the Spirit reaches the depths of everything, even
the depths of God.

Gospel Acclamation: 1s3:9, Jn6:68

Allelula, allelula!

Speak, Lord, your servant is

listening: you have the message of eternal life.

Allelula!

Gospel: Matthew 5:20-22,27-28,33-34,37

Jesus said to his disciples: 'I tell you, if your virtue goes no
deeper than that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never
get into the kingdom of heaven.

'You have learnt how it was said to our ancestors: *You must
not kill*; and if anyone does kill he must answer for it before
the court. But I say this to you: anyone who is angry with his
brother will answer for it before the court.

'You have learnt how it was said: *You must not commit adul-
tery*. But I say this to you: if a man looks at a woman lustfully,
he has already committed adultery with her in his heart.

'Again, you have learnt how it was said to our ancestors: *You
must not break your oath, but must fulfil your oaths to the
Lord*. But I say this to you: do not swear at all. All you need say
is "Yes" if you mean yes, "No" if you mean no; anything more
than this comes from the evil one.'

Prayer over the Offerings

May this oblation, O Lord, we pray,
cleanse and renew us and may it become for those who do
your will the source of eternal reward.
Through Christ our Lord.

Prayer after Communion

Having fed upon these heavenly delights,
we pray, O Lord,
so that we may always long
for that food by which we truly live.
Through Christ our Lord.

ST. GEORGE'S CATHOLIC CHURCH, SUDBURY

Sunday 12th February 2023

THE SIXTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

Welcome to all at mass today and especially anyone who is new. Please take this Newsletter home with you. You may wish to share it with family and friends. This newsletter can also be found via our website. We ask God's blessing on you and your loved ones this week and know that we pray for you all each day.

Sunday Cycle
Readings Year A

Weekday Readings
Week 6 year 2

Divine Office
Week 2

For children,
download a weekly sheet:
<http://www.sdc.me.uk/sundayliturgy/>

THIS WEEK

Sun 12 Feb
6.15pm
8.30am
9.45am
11.15am
5.30pm

6th SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

Bridie Carey RIP
Isobel Scannell RIP
Joseph Wright RIP
Bridget Dunne RIP (1st Anniv.)
THE PEOPLE OF THE PARISH

Mon 13 Feb
9.30am

feria
Emilia Ruaburo RIP

Tues 14 Feb
9.30am

Ss. CYRIL & METHODIUS
Melinda Peter RIP

Weds 15 Feb
9.30am

feria
Molly Fabron RIP
FUNERAL MASS
Mary Forde RIP

Thurs 16 Feb
9.30am

feria
Watts & Ledo Families RIP

Fri 17 Feb
9.30am
12.30pm

feria
Michael Walsh RIP
FUNERAL MASS
Juliana Etan RIP

Sat 18 Feb
9.30am

Of Our Our Lady
John Murphy RIP

Sun 19 Feb
6.15pm

7th SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

Helen Brady RIP
& Alice Cullen RIP
THE PEOPLE OF THE PARISH
Ken Durcan RIP
Eileen Nicklen RIP
Manuel Martin Lopez RIP



TODAY'S MASS

When Matthew speaks of "the Law and the prophets" he means the whole of Scripture. When the Messiah brings the fullness of the kingdom none of scripture will be done away with. Instead it will be fulfilled. Matthew's Jesus does not overturn the Law of Moses, nor does he set his followers free from the Law. He requires

his followers to go beyond the Law by doing more than the Law requires.

First Reading: Sirach 15:15-20

The eyes of God see all he has made.

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 119:1-2,4-5, 17-18,33-34

Happy are those who walk in the way of the Lord.

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 2:6-10

God has revealed this wisdom to us through the Spirit.

Gospel Reading: Matthew 5:17-37

I have not come to abolish the law and the prophets but to fulfil them.

SPIRITUAL QUOTE OF THE WEEK

*"The devil fears hearts on fire with
love of God."*

St. Catherine of Siena

MAKING CONTACT AT ST. GEORGE'S

Parish Priest: Mgr. Jeremy Fairhead jeremyfairhead@rcdow.org.uk

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GOSPEL REFLECTION

DAILY MASS TIMES

SUNDAY MASS: 6.15pm (Saturday Vigil), 8.30am, 9.45am (Family) & 11.15am (Solemn), 5.30pm.

WEEKDAY MASS: Monday – Saturday 9.30am.

HOLYDAYS OF OBLIGATION: 9.30am, 8.00pm.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION: Friday 9.00-9.30am, Saturday 5.15-6.00pm.

CONFESSIONS: Saturday 5.15pm -6.00pm. *and any time by appointment.*

DIVINE MERCY: Tuesday 10.30am.

ROSARY: Daily after Mass.

FOR YOUR PRAYERS

SICK & HOUSEBOUND: *Marie Rego, Eileen Kidd, Christopher Browne, Noel Gill, Dee Auriol, Allan Noronha, Fiona Power, SMR, Aaran Thayaparan, Jocalyn Almeida, John, Rowland Watts, Catherine Corcoran, Shaun Scoon and Helen Jordan, Sean Marren, George Beel, Anne McShine-Jones, Marian Lynch, Shane & Paul, Martha Conway.*

RECENTLY BAPTISED: *Mollie Faithful -Bowie*

RECENTLY DEPARTED: *James McGovern, Juliana Etan, Susan Scannell, Mary Forde*

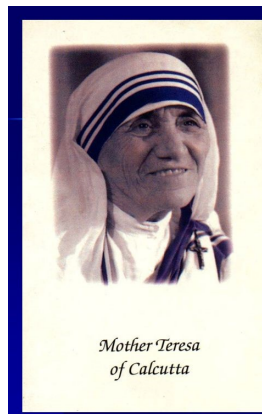
ANNIVERSARIES OF THE DEPARTED:
Melinda Peter, Bridget Dunne (1st)

BLESSED SACRAMENT LAMP
Private Intentions of Linda

LAMP AT THE ALTAR OF OUR LADY OF WALSINGHAM
Intentions of Baptiste Fernandes

POPE FRANCIS' INTENTIONS FOR February 2023
For parishes

We pray that parishes, placing communion at the centre, may increasingly become communities of faith, fraternity



The fruit of SILENCE is Prayer
The fruit of PRAYER is Faith
The fruit of FAITH is Love
The fruit of LOVE is Service
The fruit of SERVICE is Peace

*Mother Teresa
of Calcutta*

and welcome towards those most in need.

Why do people tend to view the "law of God" negatively rather than positively? Jesus' attitude towards the law of God can be summed up in the great prayer of Psalm 119: "Oh, how I love your law! It is my meditation all the day."

For the people of Israel the "law" could refer to the ten commandments or to the five Books of Moses, called the Pentateuch or Torah, which explain the commandments and ordinances of God for his people. The "law" also referred to the whole teaching or way of life which God gave to his people. The Jews in Jesus' time also used it as a description of the oral or scribal law. Needless to say, the scribes added many more things to the law than God intended. That is why Jesus often condemned the scribal law because it placed burdens on people which God had not intended.

Jesus made it very clear that the essence of God's law - his commandments and way of life, must be fulfilled. God's law is true and righteous because it flows from his love, goodness, and holiness. It is a law of grace, love, and freedom for us. That is why God commands us to love him above all else and to follow in the way of his Son, the Lord Jesus who taught us how to love by laying down our lives for one another.

Jesus taught reverence and respect for God's law - reverence for God himself, reverence for the Lord's Day, reverence or respect for parents, respect for life, for property, for another person's good name, respect for oneself and for one's neighbour lest wrong or hurtful desires master and enslave us. Reverence and respect for God's commandments teach us the way of love - love of God and love of neighbour. What is impossible to humans is possible to God who gives generously of his gifts and the power of the Holy Spirit to those who put their faith and trust in him.

God gives us the grace, help, and strength to love as he loves, to forgive as he forgives, to think and judge as he judges, and to act as he acts with mercy, loving-kindness, and goodness. The Lord loves righteousness and hates wickedness. As his followers we must love his commandments and hate every form of sin and wrong-doing. If we want to live righteously as God desires for us, then we must know and understand the intention of God's commands for us, and decide in our heart to obey the Lord. Do you seek to understand the intention of his law and to grow in wisdom of his ways?

Jesus promised his disciples that he would give them the gift of the Holy Spirit who writes God's law of love and truth on our hearts. The Holy Spirit teaches us God's truth and gives us wisdom and understanding of God's ways. The Spirit helps us in our weakness, strengthens us in temptation, and transforms us, day by day, into the likeness of Jesus Christ, our Merciful Saviour and Humble Lord. There is great blessing and reward for those who obey God's commandments and who encourage others, especially the younger generations, to love, respect, and obey the Lord. Do you trust in God's love and allow his Holy Spirit to fill you with a thirst for holiness and righteousness in every area of your life? Ask the Holy Spirit to fill your heart with a burning desire and reverence for God's life-giving word so that you may grow day by day in the wisdom and knowledge of God's love, truth, and goodness.

NEWS UPDATE



Switch mobile phones
off or to silent

WELCOME to all at Mass today and a big welcome to anyone who is new or a visitor.

WE TRY AND KEEP THE CHURCH WARM during this cold weather. Please help us by shutting the door when you enter.

FUNERAL MASS of Mary Forde on Wednesday 15th February at 9.30am followed by burial at Carpenders Park. May she rest in peace.

FUNERAL MASS of Juliana Etan on Friday 17th February at 12.30pm followed by cremation at West London Crematorium.

'LOOK' our new children's Sunday sheet continues this weekend. We hope you enjoyed our last two weeks. Parents and children let us know if you like them!

PARISH PHONE LINES—these are now working again. Sorry for any inconvenience.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION - At Session 4, on Tuesday 21st February, the children will be reflecting in their Small Catechist Groups about how 'The Eucharist is our Family Meal'. Thank you for arriving promptly for the start of the session at 7pm. Following the request of a number of Parents/Carers, during Session 4 Parents/Carers will be welcome to enjoy a Tour of the Church led by John Sexton, beginning in the Church at 7.05pm.

CONFIRMATION 2023 - At Session 1, on Monday 20th February, the Confirmation Candidates will be reflecting on 'The Purpose of Confirmation'. Thank you for arriving promptly for the start of the session at 7.30pm. The Confirmation Day Retreat is taking place at SPEC (Pinner) on Sunday 26th February from 9.45-4pm.

LENT IS NEARLY UPON US (just 10 days away!) Please take a Parish Lent Leaflet today (and a collecting box) to help you prepare now as to know what you are going to do (Don't leave it until the last minute!).

YOUR OLD PALM CROSSES ARE WANTED- To allow preparations for Ash Wednesday, please return your old Palm Crosses from last year to the basket provided at the back of church on either of the next two Sundays. These are burnt to provide the ash for Ash Wednesday. Please DON'T return any palm crosses after 19 Feb. Maybe when you return your cross, make a prayer of penitence in church and make a plan to come to the Sacrament of Reconciliation during Lent. Please don't take these crosses (as essentially they are needed!) - its not Palm Sunday for a while!!

CAN YOU SING OR PLAY A MUSICAL INSTRUMENT? If so we need you. As we have begun a new year it

would be good to see more of our community involved with the Music at both the 9.45am Family Mass and the 11.15am Solemn Mass. Too many of us leave it to a few. The great Saint Augustine reminds us that the one who sings prays twice! Our music and singing is one of the great ways we give glory to God especially when we are celebrating Mass. If you feel you could help, please let us know as you'd be very welcome.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY (SVP) : If you are feeling isolated and would like a home visit or a chat with a friendly person over the phone please get in touch. If you are struggling financially or would like other practical assistance please do not hesitate to contact us. If you are over 18 and are interested in becoming a member of the SVP you would be very welcome, just call the number below or drop in to our next meeting. Tel. 0775 3654154 (Theresa). Email. frain.home@gmail.com

CALLING NEW CONFIRMATION CATECHISTS - Might you consider a new ministry at the Parish helping our young people prepare for their Confirmation in 2023? If you might consider helping, please contact our Catechetical Coordinator, Mr. Peter Kingsley, at peterkingsley@rcdow.org.uk for further information.

CHURCH LAMPS: If you would like to sponsor the blessed sacrament lamp or the lamp by the altar of Our Lady of Walsingham with a particular intention, the cost is £10 for the week - Please see Toni in the Parish Office.

MENS BREAKFAST Saturday 25th February from 9.00am. Speaker: Jake Scicinski on the subject "Whatever happened to music and singing in the Catholic Church in England". (Jake is studying the organ at present at the Royal College of Music). All welcome—Father, sons etc.

SOME LITURGICAL DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:
Ash Wednesday beginning of Lent- 22nd February
First Sunday of Lent - 26th February
St Patrick - 17th March
St Joseph - 20th March
The Annunciation of the Lord - 25th March
Palm Sunday - Holy Week commences 2nd April
Maundy Thursday - 6th April
Good Friday - 7th April
Holy Saturday - 8th April
Easter Sunday of the Resurrection - 9th April
St George - 24th April
, will give an address. Tickets are not required.

PARENTING FOR FAITH - a new online course starting for those with Babies and Toddlers over 5 weeks from 23rd March 23 via Zoom starting at 8:00pm. There is a £5 registration fee.
<https://www.celebratetrust.org/parentingforfaith>

A VERY RESPONSIBLE Catholic adult male is looking for accommodation. Any chance you could help? Contact Fr Jeremy for more information.

EVERY BABY IN THE WOMB HAS A RIGHT TO LIFE: A Petition to stop the Introduction of abortion up to

birth. In 2021, abortion campaigners brought forward an amendment to a Government Bill that would have introduced abortion on demand, for any reason, up to birth (including sex-selective abortion). This amendment did not go to a vote, but the abortion lobby is expected to make another attempt to introduce this extreme abortion law change shortly. This would be the single biggest change to abortion legislation since 1967 and would introduce one of the most extreme abortion laws in the world. Right To Life UK is running a petition to ask the Prime Minister to do everything in his power to stop the introduction of abortion up to birth. Please add your name to the petition here: <https://righttolife.org.uk/signthepetitionorishi>

INTRODUCING CATHOLIC LISTENERS: Catholic Listeners; Diocese of Westminster, a new confidential listening helpline launching this month, has been set up for those who are returning to the faith. The number is 0800 448 0704. This service is based on the Landings ethos of compassionate listening. Although not a counselling service, they have a professional team trained on signposting to other services and agencies. They aim to help those in need of a safe space to talk. For further information please contact Ade at Catholiclisteners@gmail.com

BISHOPS' STATEMENT ON SUNDAY & HOLY DAY OBLIGATION: The bishops of England and Wales have issued a new statement about the obligation of Sunday Mass for those who wish to be practising Catholics. They say: "We therefore believe that the reasons which have prevented Catholics from attending Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation no longer apply". The statement is called an "invitation" for all to be putting Sunday and Holy Day worship If you have any questions or queries about this please ask one of the clergy.

DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES 21-28 JULY: Bookings are not open yet, but 'Expressions of Interest' are sought from all who intend to participate in the Pilgrimage, whether as Praying Pilgrims, Clergy etc. An expression of interest can be made at the website: <https://rcdow.org.uk/pilgrimages/lourdes/>

YOUNG CATHOLICS (AGE 18-35 YEARS): Keep in touch with the Youth Ministry website at www.dowym.com for many resources. Particularly now "Words of advice for Catholic Young Professionals"

COST OF LIVING HUB: The Mayor of London has launched a new Cost of Living Hub to help people access information, support and advice about claiming benefits, dealing with debts, financial management and mental health support. Visit <https://www.london.gov.uk/cost-living-hub>

GRANTS TO HELP WITH ENERGY DEBTS: Possible help from a charitable trust plus links to other advice providers at <https://fuelpoverty.org.uk/focus-on/fuel-debt-and-trust-funds/>